

TIMES AND TRAILS

People, Projects and Priorities at Environment and Conservation

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In Vision

Environment and Conservation Employees:

Paul Sloan, Mike Carlton, Andy Lyon and I have spent the last eight months meeting a wide range of people in the field and at our parks. Our travels have truly taken us from Mountain City to Memphis. We have heard from communities and families concerned about a variety of issues regarding our department's efforts to protect human health, improve Tennessee's natural resources while also offering outstanding recreational opportunities. Each of these encounters has helped us understand how your work makes a difference for Tennessee and its citizens. We appreciate everything you did to make Tennessee a better place to live, work and play in 2005. Working together, I am confident our department will be successful meeting both the challenges and opportunities in the New Year ahead. Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.



Commissioner Jim Fyke

Jim

Seasons Greetings
FROM ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS A WONDERFUL TIME OF JOY AND CELEBRATION. A TIME FOR CREATING NEW MEMORIES WITH FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES, AND A TIME FOR REFLECTING ON THE UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENTS AND PEOPLE THAT MADE 2005 SO MEMORABLE.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR.

Jim



Roan Mountain State Park

Important Activities, Events and Stories for Parks and Conservation in 2005

Many good things happened for Tennessee State Parks and Conservation in 2005. A quick look back provides just a glimpse at some top stories for 2005.



Jim Fyke named TDEC Commissioner

Governor Bredesen appointed Jim Fyke as the new Environment and Conservation Commissioner on April 14. Fyke was previously the Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Conservation at TDEC. Jim retired from Metro Nashville Board of Parks and Recreation in 2003 with 39 years of service, including 25 as director. He is a member of the TVA Regional Resource Stewardship Council and served previously as state and national chairperson of the Tennessee Parks and Recreation Association and American Recreation and Parks Association.

Governor Bredesen hosts first ever statewide Land and Water Forum at Montgomery Bell State Park.

More than one hundred individuals representing 34 land conservation and natural resource protection organizations came together to discuss innovative ways to support the economy, agriculture, tourism, and the environment through land conservation. The governor challenged participants to work together so the public and private sector can match and explore opportunities to leverage every dollar of resources for conservation in Tennessee.



Governor Bredesen proposes and General Assembly creates the Tennessee Heritage Conservation Land Trust Board



The Conservation Heritage Trust Fund was created so the state can respond to emerging opportunities for preservation of priority open spaces. Administered by the Department of Environment and Conservation, the fund is run by an 11-member board representing all regions of the state. Starting with a \$10 million appropriation, the fund will support and promote land conservation across Tennessee through acquisition, donation and easement activities with willing participants.

State Representative Jere Hargrove, State Representative Charles Curtiss, State Representative Mike McDonald, State Senator Charlotte Burks and Commissioner Jim Fyke watch as Governor Bredesen signs the Heritage Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2005 at Burgess Falls State Park on September 15, 2005.

State Park festivals continue to grow by celebrating Tennessee's nature, culture and history

Just a few examples include:

- ◆ Reelfoot Lake's Eagle Festival
- ◆ Warriors' Path Nature Festival
- ◆ Bicentennial Capitol Mall's Tennessee History Festival
- ◆ Fall Creek Fall's Astronomy program and Mountaineer Festival
- ◆ Roan Mountain's Rhododendron Festival
- ◆ Sycamore Shoals' shares Tennessee's outdoor drama, "The Wataugans"
- ◆ Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee (BRAT) loops southeast Tennessee
- ◆ Henry Horton's "Step Back in Time"
- ◆ Sellars Farm brings "Sandy" back to Wilson County



2005 marked the 27th year for Tennessee's official outdoor drama, *The Wataugans* at Sycamore Shoals State Park.

Tennessee State Parks recognized as one of nation's best

Tennessee State Parks was honored as a finalist for the 2005 National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Gold Medal Awards for Excellence. Tennessee joined Florida, North Carolina and Missouri in achieving finalist status for recognition of excellence in parks resource management, environmental stewardship, and program development. Florida was eventually named the 2005 national Gold Medal winner from this group of four finalists.

Assistant Commissioner Mike Carlton, Commissioner Jim Fyke and Assistant Commissioner Andy Lyon display the 2005 National Recreation Parks Association Gold Medal Finalist Award presented to Tennessee State Parks at the NRPA's Annual Conference in Texas.



State Parks demonstrate environmental stewardship and leadership by "going green"

- ◆ 44 state parks purchasing Green Power from TVA
- ◆ State parks' golf courses achieve Audubon certification
- ◆ State parks' marinas achieve TVA Clean Marina designation
- ◆ Panther Creek purchases biodiesel for its vehicles and receives the Tennessee Environmental Stewardship Award for Excellence in Aquatic Resource Preservation.
- ◆ State parks develop energy management systems to assist with conservation and efficient use
- ◆ Randy Whitworth of Henry Horton receives Tennessee Environmental Stewardship Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation



Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan and Commissioner Jim Fyke congratulate Henry Horton Park Ranger Randy Whitworth (center) on receiving the 2005 Tennessee Environmental Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation.

Times and Trails

State Parks' hospitality group serves more guests and visitors

Demand for inn rooms, cabins, campgrounds and dining grew in 2005. State Parks' lodging, restaurant and marina operations have significantly increased business activity and revenues since 2003. Today these facilities perform at 96 percent self-sufficiency. Parks' hospitality group remains on track to reach the goal of full self-sufficiency status by 2007-2008.



TDEC leads multi-agency support for Cumberland Plateau in seeking National Park Service designation as a National Heritage Corridor

TDEC, TDOT, and TWRA have matched a \$31,500 federal grant to develop a feasibility study for purposes of making the Cumberland Plateau a National Heritage Corridor. This designation will help the region obtain federal funding and would be geared toward promoting natural, recreational, agriculture and heritage opportunities in the region while protecting and preserving the plateau's unique resources. The feasibility study for National Heritage Corridor status began in March 2005 and will take 12 months to complete.

The diverse array of natural and recreational opportunities awaiting visitors at Fall Creek Falls is just one example of what makes Tennessee State Parks so special.

People, Projects and Priorities



Outstanding amenities and service at Pickwick Landing's Inn and Marina combine to offer exceptional value for visitors to Tennessee State Parks.

Tennessee Golf Trail adds four Bear Trace courses

The state assumed operational responsibility for the Bear Trace golf courses at Chickasaw, Cumberland Mountain, Harrison Bay and Tims Ford on December 1. Tennessee Golf Trail now offers a state park golf experience with its eight traditional and four Jack Nicklaus designed courses. Former LPGA executive Jim Webb was named Golf Director for the Tennessee Golf Trail in October.



The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay State Park is just 20 minutes from downtown Chattanooga.

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Roundtable Recognizes Four for Environmental Achievements

The Tennessee Pollution Prevention Roundtable recently recognized four organizations for achieving Partner-level status in the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership (TP3). Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan presented TP3 Partner certificates to Olin Chemical, Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products, James H. Quillen VA Medical Center and the University of Tennessee's Knoxville campus at the Roundtable's December meeting in Nashville.

Olin Chlor Alkali Products of Charleston has launched "The Goal is Zero" campaign at its facility with an objective of achieving zero releases, zero incidents and zero disposal of hazardous waste. One innovation that Olin deployed during this effort was the determination and execution of a method that removes mercury from the brine purification mud, which eliminates the need to landfill mercury-contaminated material. This operational improvement will save Olin \$7.5 million over the next 20 years. Olin also received the 2005 Tennessee Environmental Stewardship Award for Large Quantity Hazardous Waste Generators.

Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products of Cleveland has modified its operations so the facility is no longer producing the levels of solid waste that require incineration at their site. This reduction allows Maytag to surrender a required air permit back to Environment and Conservation's Air Pollution Control and will save Maytag \$225,000 per year.

James H. Quillen VA Medical Center recently completed a major project in its laundry services that reduces water consumption by 2.2 million gallons each year. This conservation effort will save Quillen \$19,400 per year. On an important note, Quillen is the first government facility to reach the TP3 Partner Level.

The University of Tennessee has an enrollment of 25,500 undergraduate and graduate students on its 550-acre Knoxville campus with more than 8,100 faculty and staff members are employed at the Knoxville campus. The University has adopted an Environmental Policy statement and is currently purchasing 3,375 blocks of green power which equates to 2.5 percent of the University's annual electric usage. UT is also a winner of 2005 TP3 Green Schools Higher Education Award for Excellence in energy reduction, product reuse and overall recycling. UT is the first higher education facility to reach the TP3 Partner Level.

Acknowledging the Roundtable's shared sense of environmental responsibility and the collaboration, Deputy Commissioner Sloan noted, "These new TP3 Partners serve as real-world examples for others that have a commitment to go beyond basic compliance. Innovations and operational changes at these companies have conserved resources, lessened their impact on the natural world and saved money for the organization."

The TP3 is a statewide network of households, schools, government agencies, organizations, businesses and industries working together to prevent pollution. TP3 members are evaluated for their compliance with environmental laws, their pollution prevention initiatives, and their environmental management system to determine whether they merit status as a TP3 Partner. Twenty-one Tennessee organizations have now achieved TP3 Partner-level status.

For more information on the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership, visit <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/ea/tp3/>.



Steve Tew, Olin Chemical and Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan.



Arnold Moss and Steve Kiebzak, Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products and Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan.



Douglas Dulaney, James H. Quillen VA Medical Center and Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan.



Sarah Surak representing the University of Tennessee with Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan.

Employees Honored for Service



Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan thanks Field Office Senior Director **Brenda Apple** for her 25 years of service to the State of Tennessee.



Phil Chambers, director of the Knoxville Environmental Field Office, presents **Tanya Gheen** with a plaque, a certificate and a clock in honor of her thirty years with the state.

Welcome New Employees



Clint Ezell



Jared Davidson

The Jackson Environmental Field Office has two new Employees: A hearty welcome to **Clint Ezell**, APC, who transferred from Natchez Trace State Park and to **Jared Davidson**, WPC, who will be working with construction storm water.

November Service Anniversaries

5 Years

Mary Todd, Fall Creek Falls State Park
Janice Darnell, Henry Horton State Park
Lisa Huff, Natural Heritage, Knoxville EFO
Gerald Kwaszu, Radiological Health, Nashville EFO
Elizabeth Murphy, Radiological Health
Margaret Overstreet, SWM, Jackson EFO
Troy Keith, Remediation
Micah Gravitt, GWP, Chattanooga EFO

10 Years

Roger Hendrick, Jr., Montgomery Bell State Park
Jennifer Smith, Solid Waste Management

15 Years

Doyal Vaughan, Tennessee Historical Commission
Cynthia Glover, Natchez Trace State Park
Steven Smith, Meeman-Shelby State Park
John Trimmer, Air Pollution Control
Grigsby Stevens, Radiological Health, Memphis EFO
Debbie Mann, Office of Environmental Assistance
Donene Payne, UST, Knoxville EFO

20 Years

Susan Presely, Fiscal Services
Roberta Fox, Harrison Bay State Park
Elizabeth Davenport, Harrison Bay State Park
Donald Adams, Montgomery Bell State Park
James Qualls, Facilities Management
William Anglin, Office of Environmental Assistance

30 Years

Deborah Ventress, Information Systems
Larry Barner, Montgomery Bell State Park
Linda Sykes, Paris Landing State Park
Donald Luke, Solid Waste Management
Deborah Moore, DOE Oversight, Knoxville EFO

35 Years

Hurley Mayberry, Montgomery Bell State Park
Warner Hatton, Natchez Trace State Park

*Seasons Greetings
 and
 Happy New Year*



Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. And today? Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present. ~Babatunde Olatunji

2005 Friends Conference a Resounding Success

The 2005 Friends Conference on November 4-6 at Montgomery Bell State Park was attended by representatives of 24 Friends Groups from Memphis to Kingsport. Eighty-nine attendees, including Commissioner Jim Fyke and Assistant Commissioners Mike Carlton and Andy Lyon, were royally hosted by the staff of Montgomery Bell State Park under the direction of Hospitality Manager Pam Barfield.

The Conference began with a networking opportunity on Friday evening by means of an instructional class, on square dancing led by Park Manager Bobby Fulcher. On Saturday, a full array of informational topics were covered, including the future direction of Tennessee State Parks and the important role that volunteers will share in these efforts. An analytical review of a recent survey of the strengths and weaknesses of Friends Groups was led by Dan Russo, former Professor of Economics at East Tennessee State University. Kathleen Williams offered an excellent presentation on small grants available through the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation. Ron Castle, Past President of the Friends of South Cumberland Recreation Area, led a discussion on the advantages of using the Internet to communicate effectively with group membership and the community they serve by promoting Friends' sponsored events at our state parks. The afternoon was concluded by a "Birds of Prey" display from Ranger Tim Wheatley and with a two mile trail hike through the beautiful surroundings of the park. The entire agenda for this day was highlighted by remarks from five outstanding park managers on the important aspects of working effectively with Friends Groups from the park management perspective.

The Conference concluded on Sunday morning with a panel discussion of subjects that the Conference attendees had previously indicated they wanted to review. This discussion was the highlight of the entire weekend as Friends, along with State Park central office management, covered an array of challenging issues for Friends Groups and the different approaches that some groups have utilized in solving these problems.

The Conference was organized by the efforts of six distinguished Friends Group Presidents: Carey Sanders, Big Cypress Tree; Fount Bertram, Edgar Evins; Ann Tidwell, Radnor Lake; Cheryl Smith, The Watauga Association; Lana Baker Rossi, Cordell Hull; and Heather Sigmon, Panther Creek. Tennessee State Parks is deeply indebted to these outstanding volunteer leaders for their commitment to our state park system.

More photos are found on the next page and here.



The boardwalk at Montgomery Bell State Park.



Assistant Commissioner, Mike Carlton presents an award of appreciation to Dan and Rosalie Russo for their years of dedication to Tennessee State Parks and Friends Groups.



Assistant Commissioner Mike Carlton and Bledsoe Creek State Park Manager Wayne Bomar present Betty Bush with a plaque for 35 years of volunteer service to Bledsoe Creek State Park.

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People, Projects and Priorities



The Caney Fork Band provided musical entertainment.



*Lana Baker Rossi, president ,
Friends of Cordell Hull State Park.*



*State Park Friends are
all ages and sizes.*



*L-R: Betty Bush, Bledsoe Creek State Park volunteer campground
host, Ken Kackley, president of Friends of Cedars of Lebanon State
Park, Alice Green, secretary, Friends of Cedars of Lebanon State
Park.*



*Carolyn Wilson, Friends of Johnsonville State
Park, holds the microphone for Kim Moore, man-
ager at Cove Lake State Park.*



*Ranger Jason Chadwell,
Panther Creek State Park.*



*Frank Oakburg, vice pres-
ident, Friends of Panther
Creek State Park*

Times and Trails

People, Projects and Priorities

54th Annual Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Conference

The Tennessee Recreation and Park Association (TRPA) held its 54th Annual Conference November 14-18 in Nashville. The event was hosted by the Metropolitan Nashville Department of Parks and Recreation. Attended by TRPA members from across the state, the event was a huge success. The 2006 Annual Conference is being hosted by the Department of Environment and Conservation and will be held at Paris Landing State Park.



Paris, Tennessee not Paris, France...Assistant Commissioner Andy Lyon sets Robb Sherrill, Commissioner's Office, straight as to where the 2006 TRPA conference will be held: Paris Landing State Park.



TDEC's Anne Marshall is sworn in as the 2006 TRPA President by David Lose of Lose and Associates. Mr. Lose is a past president for the NRPA Board of Directors.



Mark Tummons (left), director of TDEC's Recreation and Education Services, is presented the Fellow Award from TRPA President, Craig Price. The Fellow Award is presented each year by TRPA to an outstanding recreation professional.



Ranger Sam Reed and Ranger John Froeschauer talk to visitors at the State Parks' booth at the conference.

TRPA is a professional society of approximately 1200 individual and agency members organized to unite all those interested in the recreation and parks movement in Tennessee. TRPA exists to further the parks and recreation profession in Tennessee by enhancing professional growth through vital association activities. Promoting professional education and networking opportunities, TRPA has a voice in shaping the future of the profession in Tennessee. TRPA strives to ensure Tennesseans are provided the very best recreation opportunities. For more on the TRPA [Click here.](#)



Joyce Hoyle, retired director of TDEC's Recreation and Education Services at the Department of Environment and Conservation, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the outgoing TRPA President, Craig Price.

Environment and Conservation's Spirit of the Holidays

Johnson City Environmental Field Office

The Johnson City Environmental Field Office supports disadvantaged children in the community each year by participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. The response from staff at the office was exceptional this year and allowed sponsorship of five children from two different families. Each child is provided basic needs such as clothing, shoes and coats to match their size and color preferences. Many toys are also included in the package. Division of Water Supply employees Laura Phillips and Dawn Taylor graciously coordinate the program each year to ensure that each child has a large bag of gifts to enjoy on Christmas Day.



Central Office

Environment and Conservation's 2005 Toy & Coat Drive was a great success. The Central Office collected 317 toys and 10 coats for the Community Resource Center (CRC).

CRC is the only Tennessee organization that recycles and distributes donated goods and surplus inventory to schools and nonprofit agencies. Last year, the Community Resource Center donated three million dollars worth of supplies and other goods to charities directly serving children, senior citizens, people in distress, and the disadvantaged.



Nashville Environmental Field Office

The Nashville Environmental Field Office celebrated Thanksgiving this year by raising money for those less fortunate. Instead of the usual turkey and trimmings, they held a number of events to raise money for the Second Harvest Food Bank and for the neighboring Jere Baxter Middle School.

The first event was a Chili and Dessert Cook-Off. Judges Brenda Apple, Faye Chiles and the Jere Baxter Middle School Vice Principal declared Stephanie Cochran with Radiological Health the chili cook-off winner with her Southwest Chili and Pamela Franklin of Remediation the dessert winner for her "Almost like Nana's Banana Pudding" dessert. In addition, a silent auction was held featuring items made or donated by the staff. Items included handmade jewelry, pottery, gift baskets, a courting candle and much more.

The most enjoyable and profitable event was the "Hit the Manager in the Face with a Pie" contest. Several days before the event, jars were set up in the front lobby. Each jar had a picture of a program manager, administrator or director. Staff members voted for the manager they would most like to see receive a pie in the face by dropping a dollar in the jar. For each dollar they donated, they received a chance to actually throw the pie. The winner was Jim Barnes, UST program manager, followed closely by Steve Janes, UST administrative manager. Tracy Carter received the honor of presenting Jim with his pie. A generous staff member offered \$20 for the privilege of throwing a pie at Steve Janes. Thanks to Jim and Steve for being such good sports. There were also a couple of other surprised recipients: Brenda Apple and Sherwin Smith, DWS unwittingly took one on the chin for charity.

Everyone had a great time, enjoyed good food and raised an impressive \$806 that was divided between Second Harvest and Jere Baxter Middle School.



Administrative staff: Angela Martin, Brenda Marlar, Carol Curtsinger, Dianne White, Martha Fish.



Steve Janes, UST administrative manager, and Jim Barnes, UST program manager.

Knoxville Environmental Field Office TECC Chili Cook-Off

The Knoxville Environmental Field Office held its 5th Annual Chili Cook-Off on Friday, October 21. There were 45 hungry people at Westview Park ready to dig in. The weather was perfect, the food was great, and everyone had a good time.

Tisha Calabrese-Benton, Communications, Chris Anandel, Remediation, and Baxter Wilson, Water Pollution Control, were asked to judge which of the six chili entries was the Best Tasting and the Hottest.

Steve Wilson, Underground Storage Tanks, was the winner of the Best All Around Taste category with his "mystery" chili and Gerald Webster, Solid Waste Management, won the hottest category. It was later revealed that the secret to the mystery chili was the groundhog. Steve says farm raised groundhogs are much better than wild groundhogs. Honorable Mention Certificates were presented to Mary Jean Hannah, Administration, for her white bean and chicken chili, Kim Gilliam, Radiological Health, for her vegetarian chili, and Rick Huchison, Underground Storage Tanks, for his tequila lime chicken chili.

Special thanks to Becky Hawkins, Debbie Smith, Elaine Killion and Tanya Gheen for organizing and preparing everything for the cook-off again this year. Also, thanks to Steve Wilson for cooking the "dogs," Pete Lemiszki, Geology, for the chili banner and photos, Dave Kirk for the creative certificates, and last, but certainly not least, Don Swaggerty for loading, unloading, pulling, tugging and helping to set everything up. Good job guys!

Top: Chili cookoff winners Steve Wilson, Underground Storage Tanks, and Gerald Webster, Solid Waste Management.

Bottom: Chili cookoff organizers (l-r): Elaine Killion, Becky Hawkins, Debbie Smith and in the back, Tanya Gheen.



Quincy Claus Spreads Joy at the Commissioner's Holiday Reception



Quincy Styke, aka Quincy Claus and Joe Sanders, Office of General Counsel, discuss Joe's wish for new shoes so he can be part of "Dancing with the Stars."

TDEC Central Office staff received a special treat at the Commissioner's Holiday Reception on December 13. Taking a break from both his North Pole list making and his New Source Review (NSR) rule-making responsibilities, Quincy Claus made a first-ever appearance at the L&C Building. Employees and family members were greatly impressed with the authentic gait and good humor of Air Pollution Control's Deputy Director Quincy Styke, aka Quincy Claus. More than one person commented, "That man was born for this role!" Quincy Claus not only made time for photos with staff, but he also noted special Christmas gifts he will be bringing for department managers like Barry Stephens, Tom Eck, Paul Davis and Joe Sanders.

Quincy Claus with...



Harold Madison from the Office of Environmental Assistance.



Nancy Warren of Human Resources.



Mary Parkman from the Office of General Counsel.



Mary Evans of Solid and Hazardous Waste Management.



Dave Gosslee of Air Pollution Control.



Deputy Commissioner Paul Sloan, Quincy Claus and Commissioner Jim Fyke.



Kem Allen and Odelle Graham from Fiscal Services – Building Management.



Connie Pinkerton of Radiological Health.



Manager Jamey Nicholson of Hiwassee-Ocoee Scenic Rivers State Park.

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